



# AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 24

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 7, 1960

## Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

### MORE CENSUS TAKERS

Uncle Sam won't be alone in taking a population count this year. At least 60 other nations will also count noses in 1960, and another 40 lands plan to do so next year. Russia took a census last year, and Red China did so in 1953. Hence, by the end of 1961, almost all countries in the world will have made a count of inhabitants.

### JAPAN STRIKES IT RICH

Japan is becoming a major oil-producing nation, but not from wells on her own soil. Her citizens have begun extensive development of undersea oil deposits in the Persian Gulf and other Middle East areas. The Japanese are sharing profits from the petroleum fields with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the 2 lands nearest to the undersea oil deposits.

### MORE FOR DEFENSE

Britain is spending a record peace-time sum of 3.7 billion dollars for defense this year—about a third of that country's national budget. London is spending large amounts on new types of aircraft and on a defense system against the threat of enemy missiles.

### HIGHER POSTAGE STAMPS?

If the Eisenhower Administration has its way, we shall soon be putting 5¢ instead of 4-cent stamps on our first class letters. The White House is also calling for increases in airmail charges from 7 to 8 cents a letter, plus boosts in other types of mail as well. Altogether, the proposed increases in mail rates would add an estimated \$554,000,000 in revenues to the Post Office Department—the approximate amount by which the agency is likely to go into the red in the coming year.

There is strong opposition in Congress to the Administration's request for higher postage rates. Hence, the plan may be rejected this year.

### MR. HOFFMAN SPEAKS ON AID

The United States should greatly increase technical assistance and other aid programs for the world's poorer nations. So says Paul Hoffman, who once directed our overseas assistance projects and now does the same for the United Nations.

Mr. Hoffman argues that our aid is (1) badly needed by other countries, and (2) that it is good business for us to step up such assistance programs. By helping the underdeveloped lands secure a better life, he points out, we'll make it possible for them to buy many more goods from us. Hence, we shall help ourselves as well as others by increasing overseas aid programs, he concludes.



Paul G. Hoffman  
argues that our aid is (1) badly needed by other countries, and (2) that it is good business for us to step up such assistance programs. By helping the underdeveloped lands secure a better life, he points out, we'll make it possible for them to buy many more goods from us. Hence, we shall help ourselves as well as others by increasing overseas aid programs, he concludes.



BURMESE GIRL spreads out dyed, washed silk skeins so that they may dry  
MADDEN-BLACK STAR

## Burma Moving Ahead

Now That Menace of Communist Rebels Has Been Reduced,  
Greater Efforts to End Poverty Can Be Made

**B**URMA, a nation about the size of Texas with a population of more than 20,000,000, has been in the international spotlight on several different occasions so far this year. Late in January, that country settled a long-standing border dispute with its northern neighbor, communist China. February was a particularly busy month for Burma as she held an important nation-wide election and also played host to Russia's globe-traveling Premier, Nikita Khrushchev.

In order to have a clearer understanding of recent events in Burma, and the significance of these developments in world affairs, it is well to examine the background of this Asian land.

**HISTORY.** Burma was first unified as a nation in the 11th century. During most of her early history, though, there was rarely any strong central authority. The country was also plagued by a long series of wars with Siam (now Thailand).

In the early 19th century, the first of a number of conflicts between Burma and Great Britain broke out. By 1886, Burmese resistance had been broken down and the territory included as part of the British colony of India. This situation prevailed until 1937 at which time Burma was set

up as a separate colony of the British Empire.

During the 1920's and 1930's, there was a mounting demand among educated Burmese that their country be given its freedom. In some cases, these nationalist leaders were put in jail.

In 1942, Japanese forces drove out the British administration and ruled the land for several years. Toward the end of this occupation, Japanese authorities were constantly harassed by a well-organized Burmese underground organization.

The British returned to Burma at the end of the Second World War. Within a short time they began taking steps to satisfy local demands for national freedom. Burma declared its independence on January 4, 1948, a date said to be the most promising by local astrologers. (Those who believe in astrology, and many Burmese do, think that the changing position of the stars and planets in relation to the earth has an important influence on the lives and destinies of people.) The new nation was given the opportunity of joining the British Commonwealth of Nations, but instead chose self-government without having any Commonwealth ties.

(Continued on page 6)

## Is Death Penalty The Wise Policy?

Controversy over Executions  
For Major Crimes Is Still  
Being Carried On

DOES any state or nation have the right to take the life of a person found guilty of serious crimes such as treason, murder, and kidnaping? That controversial question has been debated throughout the world for many years. Most recently, it has been the cause of dispute in California.

By California law, the death penalty is (at this writing) permitted for certain major crimes. The state's governor, Edmund (Pat) Brown, asked the legislature 2 weeks ago to decide whether or not the penalty should be abolished.

Mr. Brown hoped that the lawmakers would vote for an end to capital punishment. Should California eliminate the death penalty, it would become the 10th state in which life imprisonment is the maximum sentence for crime. (The vote may have been taken by the time this paper reaches its readers.)

The 9 states which presently do not permit capital punishment are: Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island. The last state has 1 unusual exception: A Rhode Island convict serving a life sentence for murder may be hanged if he kills a guard while in prison. Along with these 9 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands forbid the death penalty.

Forty-one states, including California, permit capital punishment. Of these, 23 states plus the District of Columbia electrocute persons sentenced to death. Eleven states use the gas chamber. Hanging is the method of execution in the Panama Canal Zone and 6 states: Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Washington, and New Hampshire. Utah executions are either by hanging or shooting; the condemned man may make the choice. If he makes none, the court decides.

U. S. federal courts, under certain circumstances, may impose the death penalty for major crimes in all states. If sentence is made in a state which does not have a law on capital punishment, a federal judge decides the method of execution. If there is a state law, the federal court uses the execution method fixed by that law.

Use of the death sentence has declined during recent years in the United States. The record number for a single year since 1930 was 199—in 1935. Since 1950, the average has been 72. In 1958, there were 48 executions, the lowest number in 30 years. In 1959, there were 49.

Between 1930 and the end of 1959, there were 3,666 executions in all. (Concluded on page 2)



## Molders of Opinion

### JOSEPH ALSOP

**J**OSEPH Alsop, has been described by *Time* as "perhaps the only western newsman who can read Confucius in classical Chinese." He graduated from Harvard with high scholastic honors, and received the Legion of Merit in World War II.

The columnist was born in Avon, Connecticut, 49 years ago. He attended Groton School in Massachusetts before entering Harvard.

After college, he went to the New York *Herald Tribune* where he served as a cub reporter and then a Washington correspondent.

In the nation's capital, Mr. Alsop met Robert Kintner (now president of the National Broadcasting Company) who was also with the *Herald Tribune* at that time. The 2 men teamed up in writing a column called "The Capital Parade."

During World War II, Joseph Alsop served as a lieutenant in the Navy and later as an Air Force captain under General Claire Chennault in China.

After the war, Joseph Alsop began a new column—this time in collaboration with his younger brother, Stewart. They co-authored "Matter of Fact" until 1958, when Stewart took

a position with the *Saturday Evening Post*. Joseph has written the column alone since then.

In preparing his columns, he sometimes conducts as many as 40 interviews a week. He frequently travels to regions where news is being made.

While Joseph Alsop writes on both national and international problems, many of his columns are devoted to the danger of communist aggression and the need for us to be properly prepared in case of war.

*Supporters of Mr. Alsop express these opinions:*

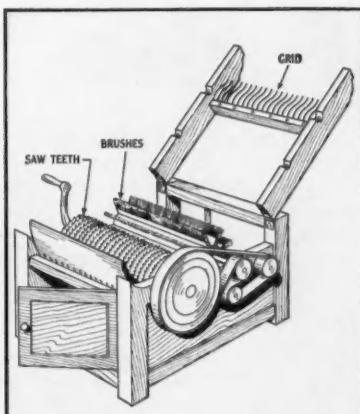
"He performs a valuable service in awakening our citizens to the terrible threat of Soviet and Red Chinese aggression. Many Americans are too comfortable and smug. Many U. S. officials are too concerned with their own particular day-by-day duties to see the picture as a whole. They need someone like Joseph Alsop who is constantly interviewing public leaders and who is tirelessly 'digging' for facts which will help him and others to make wise decisions."

"Many of his predictions—considered overly gloomy at the time they were made—have come true. As early as 1954, for example, he warned that intercontinental missiles would soon come into existence and that Russia would probably develop the weapon before our country did."

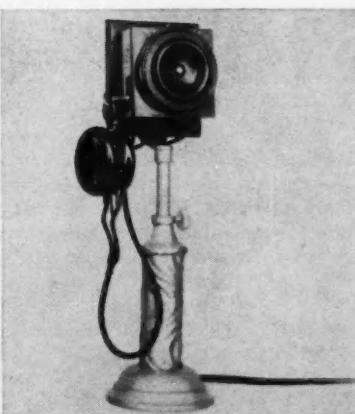
"Perhaps he exaggerates at times, but there is always much truth to what he says, and many people are unimpressed and indifferent unless they are awakened to the realities and frightened into action."

*Critics of the Alsop column take this position:*

"Too often Mr. Alsop assumes that he knows more than the top government leaders, or that he has the interest and safety of the nation more at heart than they do. Most of the officials he attacks have as much information



ELI WHITNEY'S COTTON GIN



A T & T

## Today and Yesterday

### Birthdays of Two Inventions

**I**t is hard to believe that the telephone carried its first understandable sentence only 84 years ago this month, on the evening of March 10, 1876.

On that evening, inventor Alexander Graham Bell was at work in a Boston boarding house on the instrument he had developed. His assistant, Thomas Watson, was 40 feet away in another room with a receiver to his ear.

Accidentally, Bell upset the acid of a battery over his clothes. He called out for assistance: *Mr. Watson, come here; I want you.*

That was the first, clear, telephoned sentence. Mr. Watson at once burst into the inventor's studio, shouting: "Mr. Bell, I heard every word you said—distinctly."

The telephone into which Bell spoke that evening was the only one of its kind in existence. Watson had only a receiver for listening. Manufacture of the instruments got under way quickly, though, for everyone was eager to enjoy the magic, convenient, new method of communicating with friends and business acquaintances.

The first city switchboard was opened at New Haven, Connecticut, in 1878 to serve 21 subscribers. By 1880, cities across the country were establishing telephone service. By 1884, exchanges were being installed in

small villages, and the work of providing service to farms was begun.

Long-distance circuits were established between Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, and other cities before 1890. In 1892, lines were being extended from the eastern seaboard to Chicago, and, in 1897, to Omaha, Nebraska. By 1915, it became possible to telephone across the continent. In 1915 also, an experimental call was made between the United States and France over cables under the Atlantic Ocean.

The number of telephones in the United States had passed the 1,000,000 mark by 1900, within 24 years after Bell called for "Mr. Watson." By 1910, the number was 4,000,000. Today, Americans use around 60,000,000 telephones. There is just about 1 of the highly useful instruments for every 3 persons.

Service is available to all parts of the nation and to countries around the world—by land lines, undersea cables, or radio transmission.

This month is also the anniversary of another development that has been a great boon to our industrial growth. On March 14, 1794—166 years ago—Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin.

Before Whitney invented it, cleaning cotton was a long and hard job. The new cotton gin—operated by 2 or 3 men—made it possible to clean cotton as fast as 50 men who did the job by hand. With improvements, the gin soon could do the cleaning at even faster rates.

The gin made growing cotton profitable. It led to the big cotton plantations of the south and to huge mills turning out cloth in New England. (In recent years, there has been a sharp increase in milling in the south—close to the cotton crop.)

The importance of the gin is readily seen from these figures: In 1792, before the machine was marketed, U. S. exports of cotton were 138,328 pounds. In 1794, the year Whitney began marketing his machine, exports were 1,601,000 pounds. In 1795, the exports were more than 6,000,000 pounds—and plantations were steadily increasing their acreage to grow more cotton.

For Whitney himself, the invention was not profitable. He was troubled by long suits in the courts to maintain his patent. Destruction of his New Haven, Connecticut, factory, and then failure to obtain renewal of his patent caused the inventor to give up the business in 1812.

—By TOM HAWKINS

Uncle Sam's passport office is getting ready for its busiest year. Government officials expect nearly 800,000 Americans to apply for travel permits during 1960.

## When the Going Gets Rough—Keep Going!

By Clay Coss

LIFE, at times, becomes very discouraging to all of us. There are periods when everything seems to go wrong. Perhaps we receive a great deal of criticism concerning our work or actions. Or we ourselves may feel the inability to accomplish what we desire.

If the going gets too rough, we may decide to stop struggling in the effort to achieve certain goals and pursue an easier way of life. Later on, we may be extremely sorry that we gave up so readily and did not carry out our original goals. By then, however, it may be too late to switch our course.

Some of us, when we get into these defeatist moods, are fortunate enough to be talked out of them by friends or relatives. In my own case, I am also often helped at such times by inspiring quotations which I keep posted on the wall behind my desk. For what they may be worth to you, here they are:

"I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, then angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

★

"Low aim, not failure, is a crime."

—SHAKESPEARE

★

"What is defeat? Nothing but education, nothing but the first step to something better."

—WENDELL PHILLIPS

★

"Defeat never comes to any man until he admits it."

—JOSEPHUS DANIELS



HE'S DISCOURAGED, but he shouldn't give up too easily

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

★

"To escape criticism—do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

★

"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed. Therein lies the story of my life."

—BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

# The Story of the Week

## Two Youth Groups Celebrate Birthdays

Two well-known organizations for girls are celebrating their birthdays this month. They are the Girl Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls.

The Girl Scouts are observing their 48th year of scouting activities in the United States. It was on March 12, 1912, that the first troop was organ-



SATURDAY, March 12, is 48th birthday of Girl Scouts of America. Shown here is a Senior Scout giving a baby a bath. Taking over some of the tasks at home is a part of scout training.

ized by Mrs. Juliette Low, in Savannah, Georgia.

Today, more than 2,600,000 girls between the ages of 7 and 17 are wearing the uniform of the American Girl Scouts. About 780,000 adult leaders contribute their time to the organization.

The Camp Fire Girls, with some 500,000 members, are celebrating their group's 50th birthday. The organization was founded on March 17, 1910. Girls 7 years and older may join.

## Should Past Presidents Serve in the Senate?

In less than a year, President Eisenhower will leave the White House and join 2 other men who are retired Chief Executives. They are ex-Presidents Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman.

Chances are that Mr. Eisenhower, like other men who have been President, will serve the nation in some advisory capacity from time to time when he steps down from his high office. It isn't likely, though, that such service will make full use of the knowledge of national problems that the President has gained while in the White House.

Under a plan now being considered on Capitol Hill, ex-Presidents would be made non-voting senators who represent the entire nation, instead of a particular state. The senators-at-large would serve chiefly in an advisory capacity, drawing on experience and information gained in the White House to help lawmakers reach decisions on big issues before them. The former Chief Executives would be paid for their services.

## Nuclear Blasts Coming For Peaceful Purposes

Uncle Sam hopes to set off 3 nuclear blasts soon—for peaceful rather than military purposes. All these tests are to be made underground.

The first will take place in Canada. An explosion there will be set off 1,300 feet underground. Scientists hope the blast will release oil now locked in tar sands covering large areas in northern Alberta. If the test is a success, it may release a deposit of oil far greater than the petroleum found in the Middle East. This undertaking is called "Project Oil Sand."

The second test, named "Project Chariot," will take place in Alaska, north of the Arctic Circle. There 5 atomic bombs set off at the same time will carve out a harbor 600 yards wide. The project is designed to show that excavation with atomic power is possible.

The third test, called "Project Gnome," will take place near Carlsbad, New Mexico. There an explosion will be set off 1,200 feet deep in salt deposits. The purpose of this project is to find out if the heat generated by such an explosion can be used as a source of electric power. Experts think the salt melted by the heat of the blast can be used to change water into steam to drive power turbines.

In addition, scientists hope to learn more about the makeup of atoms from the New Mexico blast. They will study neutrons—one of the tiny particles which make up the atom—in a special horizontal pipe near the explosion chamber.

## Rocky Road Ahead For Troubled Italy

Italy's future continues to be clouded by uncertainty. Last week, that country's President Giovanni Gronchi was trying to get a new leader to fill the office of Premier, following the recent resignation of Antonio Segni from that post. The new government, when it is organized, will be Italy's 21st since World War II.

A basic cause of Italy's trouble is the large number of competing political parties in that nation. There are 9 main groups, including a highly active Communist Party that is determined to crush democracy in Italy, plus several minor ones. Because no party has a majority in Parliament, 2 or more of them must work together in a coalition (combination) to run the government.

Out-going Premier Segni, who is a Christian Democrat, came to power in February of 1959. His party has only 272 seats in the important Chamber of Deputies—the country's chief law-

making group. That is more than any other single party has, but not enough for a majority in the 596-seat Chamber. Hence, Mr. Segni, like other Premiers before him, has had to depend upon the support of other groups to hold office.

The Segni coalition government fell when the Liberals, with 17 seats in the Chamber, turned against the Premier on grounds that he was adopting "too many leftist" (radical) policies. This event shows how easy it is for an Italian government to collapse.

## Will Latin America End Trade Barriers?

In a modest schoolhouse in Uruguay's capital of Montevideo, representatives from 8 Latin American nations recently made arrangements for an eventual end to barriers on goods traded among them. Later, the delegates went to the marble halls of Uruguay's Capitol to give their final approval to the idea.

But the actual job of putting the tariff-reduction program into effect still remains to be done. The treaty is little more than a set of plans for achieving that goal. It calls for annual reductions in tariffs over the next 12 years until all trade barriers among the member countries have been abolished.

The 8 countries involved are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. These nations hope that their neighbors will later join them in breaking down trade barriers so that goods can be traded freely among all Latin American lands, and possibly with the United States as well.

## Prominent Americans Give Their Opinions

Many former high-ranking government officials and other prominent Americans are appearing before the Senate Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery, headed by Democratic Senator Henry Jackson of Washington. The Jackson group is making a study of our country's defense and other policies, as well as the methods by which they are carried out.

Some of the early witnesses who have appeared before the Senate subcommittee include industrialist-banker Robert Sprague and former Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett.



WIDE WORLD  
MAN-MADE BIRD. Built by Gustav Scholz of Stuttgart, West Germany, it has wings powered with rubber bands. In the air, it looks like a real bird.

Mr. Sprague once served as co-chairman of a special study group set up by President Eisenhower a few years ago to check into the nation's defenses. He argues, in effect:

"Our nation faces a grave threat to its survival. We must boost defense spending by several billions of dollars a year if we seriously hope to protect ourselves against the threat of attack. It is just plain silly to say, as some Administration supporters do, that such a spending program will bankrupt the country."

The President's backers argue that the Chief Executive is in a better position to know our defense needs than is anyone else in the nation, and that he feels our weapons are completely "adequate" for our protection. These citizens also warn that continued criticisms of our defenses may encourage an enemy to launch an attack against us.

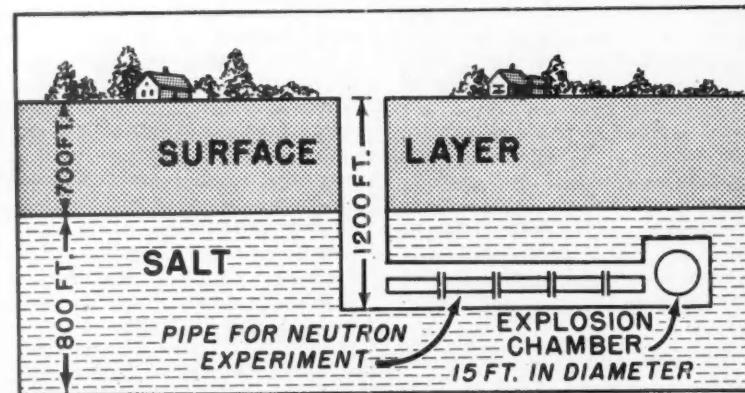
Mr. Lovett told the Jackson committee that our Secretary of State shouldn't travel abroad as much as he does—that he should spend more time running the Department of State, which is one of our most important government agencies. He suggests that a special Minister of Foreign Affairs, or roving ambassador, be appointed to take the Secretary's place at overseas meetings, giving the State Department head more time to handle his extremely vital responsibilities at home.

Critics point out that other nations might not be happy over the idea of dealing with a lesser official than the Secretary of State on important global matters. Despite this and other criticisms of the Lovett plan, the proposal is now being debated among Americans and may lead to some other solution of the problem.

## News in a Nutshell From Around the Globe

Britain and Japan are celebrating new additions to their royal families. In Britain, Queen Elizabeth II gave birth to a son. He is second in line to the throne after 11-year-old Prince Charles. The Queen has a third child, 9-year-old Princess Anne, who is now in third place for the throne.

Japan's Crown Princess Michiko also gave birth to a son, the first child for her and Crown Prince Akihito. The baby is second in line after his



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON  
TUNNEL and shaft such as shown above may be used for underground nuclear explosion in search of a new method for generating electric power. The Atomic Energy Commission is planning to conduct 3 underground experiments in Canada, Alaska, and New Mexico within a short time. Many others may follow later on.

father, Prince Akihito, to become emperor.

American businessmen may soon set up plants in Russia to produce plastics, paper, tire cord, textiles, and many other products. Not long ago, the Department of Commerce gave United States firms permission to export special machines to the Soviet Union. The Reds have long sought such equipment, and they are expected to arrange for its purchase in the near future.

France received more military aid from Uncle Sam than did any other nation over the past 10 years, according to the Defense Department. We gave the French 4½ billion dollars in weapons and similar items between 1950 and 1959.

Taiwan was the second largest recipient of our defense equipment, amounting to over 2 billion dollars during the past 10 years. Military aid to other nations includes about 2 billion dollars for Italy, 1.7 billion for Turkey, and 1.3 billion for South Korea.

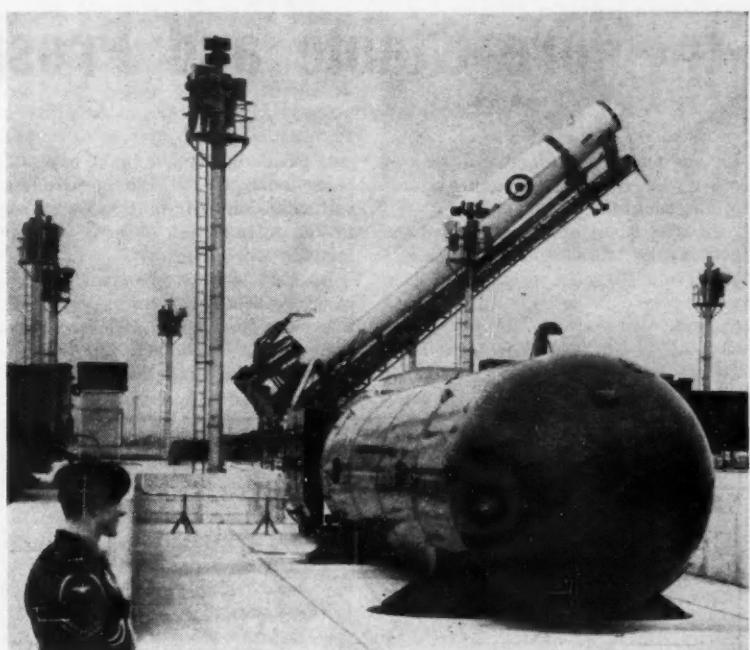
### Armed Forces Manuals Now Under Heavy Fire

The armed services publish a great number and variety of manuals—even pamphlets on how to write manuals. The U. S. Army says it puts out around 1,000 such booklets. The Navy lists 325, and the Air Force estimates it turns out approximately 420 different publications.

Within recent weeks, a few of these manuals have become the center of controversy. One tells enlisted men how to care for officers' dogs, polish shoes, and perform other similar tasks. But the publication that has raised the greatest furor states that "communists and communist fellow travelers and sympathizers have successfully infiltrated into our churches."

Church leaders and many private citizens throughout the nation have condemned the manual, which was prepared for use by Air Force reserve trainees. The Defense Department apologized for statements made in the pamphlet, and promised to "do something about it."

Meanwhile, Capitol Hill has launched a special investigation into armed



BRITAIN sets up missile defenses with the American-made Thor. The one here is being hoisted into firing position at a British Royal Air Force base. Tank in foreground contains liquid oxygen to power the missile.

forces manuals. Hence, we are likely to hear a great deal more about these pamphlets in weeks to come.

### Teen-Agers Pitch In For a Good Cause

Almost every Saturday morning from October through May, Great Neck North High School (Long Island) students start out for nearby New York City on an unusual mission. They give groups of that city's underprivileged children a special week-end treat by taking them to museums, parks, theaters, and other similar places.

The Great Neck students belong to a special club organized for the purpose of taking settlement-house children on trips. The club is called TAPI, which is short for Teen-Agers Pitch In. Dues paid by TAPI members help meet expenses of the excursions, and individual teen-agers often contribute extra money.

The entire TAPI program is organ-

ized and run by teen-agers. Only one adult, teacher Gary Price of Great Neck North High, has a part in the young people's organization. A founder of TAPI when he was a teenager, he now acts as faculty adviser to the group.

### Russia Opens Door to American Motorists

Americans who want to travel by car to Moscow and other Soviet cities will find it much easier to do so this year than ever before. Russia has agreed to lift a number of restrictions that formerly made an auto journey in the Soviet Union something of a nightmare to drivers.

From now on, motorists will be free to travel over wide areas of Russia without official "Intourist" guides forever at their side. In the past, such guides were forced upon auto drivers by the Soviet government—apparently to keep a constant eye on the visitors. Many more roads have also been opened to auto travelers from other lands.

The relaxation of rules for visiting motorists may lead to a big increase in American tourist travel to Russia. Last year, an estimated 15,000 United States citizens took a look at the Soviet Union—only a small fraction of them by car. Moscow expects to double this number of American visitors to Russia during the current year.

### Main Articles in Next Week's Issue

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the main articles next week will deal with (1) civil rights; (c) Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

### Correction

The occupational brief on guidance counseling, listed in the career feature of our February 15 issue, is 45 cents. We mistakenly gave a price of 25 cents for the booklet. It is available from Science Research Associates, 57 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago 10, Illinois. We regret the error.

## News Quiz

### Capital Punishment

- How many states do not permit capital punishment for crime? Name as many of them as you can.
- Of the states that do have the death penalty, what method is used by the majority to execute prisoners?
- How does Utah determine the way in which the death penalty shall be carried out?
- Explain the federal government's method of making decisions on capital punishment when a prisoner is condemned.
- Is the number of executions in the United States higher or lower than it was some years ago?
- What is the position of other nations on capital punishment?

### Discussion

- Do you believe that capital punishment for major crimes is justified? Give reasons for your answer.
- If you support the death penalty for certain crimes, what method of execution do you think should be used? Tell why.

### Burma Makes Headlines

- When did the area now known as Burma first become a unified land? What is the approximate population of the country today?
- Name at least 2 actions by Red China which have turned many of Burma's people against her.
- How much aid have we given Burma since 1948?
- Briefly describe the economic system and standard of living in that country.
- What kind of a political system does it have? Who is the top leader?
- Why was General Ne Win asked to take over the government during 1958?
- What has happened since then?

### Discussion

- Do you think a neutral Burma is of more value to the free or communist worlds?
- In your opinion, would it be much of a blow to democracy if that country became communist-controlled?
- Briefly discuss U. S. relations with Burma since 1958. What do you think our policy should be now?

### Miscellaneous

- Do you agree or disagree with opinions on defense policies expressed by Robert Sprague? Explain.
- What do you think of Robert Lovett's idea concerning our Secretary of State?
- For what purpose is Uncle Sam planning 3 underground nuclear blasts in the near future?
- State one important reason why Italy is troubled by an unstable government.
- How many Latin American countries are working on a plan to end trade barriers among themselves? Name as many of them as you can.
- Why are certain armed forces manuals being criticized?

### Answers to Know That Word

- (b) discredit; 2. (a) formal accusation; 3. (c) commanded; 4. (d) obstruct; 5. (e) intensely objectionable; 6. (b) commonplace statements; 7. (a) terrible.

### Pronunciations

Akihito—ä-ké-hé-tö  
Michiko—mí-chí-kó  
Ne Win—ná-wín  
U Nu—oo noō

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

Hal Chadwick states the case in this way:

Budgeting's the thing to do.  
On that I'm quite emphatic.  
I'm as broke as ever, true,  
But now it's systematic.



"It's something he invented so you can't tell if he's working or not..."

*American Observer*: Published weekly throughout the year (except during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holidays, and four issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by Civic Education Service, Inc., 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Subscription price, single copy \$1; a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for classroom, \$1.20 a school year, or 60 cents a semester. For a term longer than a semester, the price is 5½ cents a week. Single copy postage paid at Washington, D. C. Editorial Board: Jack Alden, John H. Haynes, Merrill H. Hershorn, Irving M. Hunt, Emily Jones, Allen V. King, Harold G. Moulton, David S. Mussey, L. James Quillen, Walter E. Myer, Founder: Business Manager, Ruth G. Myer; Managing Editor, Clay Cosse; Executive Editor, J. Hubert Anderson; Associate Editors, Anton A. Berle, Marv Collins, Tim Cosse, Anita M. Daubach, Hazel L. Eldridge, Margaret Ellis, Thomas F. Hawkins, Alice Haywood, Barbara Hurlbut, Thomas K. Myer, Howard Sweet, John Tottie; Asian Consultant, Er-Hsun Chow; Editor of the Civic Leader, William J. Shorrock; Illustrator, Julian Caraballo; Art Editor, Kermit Johnson; Associate Artist, Joan C. Alden.

# Burma Looks to More Stable and Prosperous Future

(Continued from page 1)

**Events Since 1948.** Burma's government is modeled along democratic lines. Her legislature, like our Congress, has 2 houses—1 based on population and the other on geographic representation. The most influential member of the government is the Prime Minister. There is also a President, but he has little real power. National elections, in which all men and women can vote, are held every 4 years.

At the outset of Burmese independence, the nation's most powerful political party was the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). This group was formed during the Japanese occupation and led the country's wartime resistance movement. After the conflict, it turned its attention to peacetime political affairs.

U Nu, a leader of the AFPFL, became Burma's first Prime Minister. He has held that post during most of the country's 12 years of independence. That he has not lost any of his original popularity can be seen by the fact that he won another decisive victory at the polls in last month's nation-wide election.

U Nu was born in 1907. He attended the University of Rangoon (that city is now Burma's capital) where he first began to take an interest in politics. He later became involved in the country's independence movement. As a result of his activities, he was jailed by the British for a short time at the outbreak of the Second World War.

When the Japanese occupied Burma, they released U Nu and made him a cabinet member in the local Tokyo-controlled government. At first, he cooperated with the Japanese, hoping they would help free his nation. Later, though, he worked secretly against them.

U Nu is a very religious man. He is a devout Buddhist (85% of Burma's people worship Buddha). He is also a strong believer in democratic traditions and has worked hard to keep a true spirit of democracy alive in Burma. He has met with considerable success in this effort. After U Nu had been in office for quite some time, a *New York Times* reporter there sent back this dispatch:

"There is freedom of the press here and there is freedom of speech. There is also perhaps less corruption in Burma than in any country in Southeast Asia." Other more recent accounts indicate that most of what this reporter said is still true.

U Nu also favors solving disputes in a non-violent fashion. Unfortunately, events in Burma have often made this impossible.

When U Nu and his government took over power in 1948, they were immediately hard pressed by armed rebellions from several sources. Two rival groups of communists roamed the jungles spreading terror and disrupting communications. The Karens, Burma's main minority group, also revolted in an attempt to set up an independent state.

During her first 3 years as a nation, Burma lost 30,000 people in warfare which raged across the land. At several points, it appeared that the government might fall. Finally, the communists and Karens were driven into small isolated pockets deep in the

jungles and a considerable degree of order was restored throughout most of the country.

In 1958, many of the enemies of the government laid down their arms and came into the open to try and gain power through political means. At present, there are still a few bands of rebels holding out in certain jungle areas. In the main, though, Burma's

total yield in all crops is being enlarged by the construction and extension of irrigation works and by the introduction of more efficient farming methods.

In 1953, the government began a widespread land-reform program. So far, more than 10,000,000 acres have been given to poor farm families.

Industrialization is being pushed in

men is believed to have been more the result of a personality clash than of any major difference in policy.

Whatever the cause, the result threatened serious consequences. The split offered the communists a chance to gain power through political manipulations. It was at this time that many communist rebels, thinking that they could now win control by peaceful means, gave up their armed struggle against the government and became openly engaged in politics.

For a while, it seemed as though they would achieve this goal. As the dispute between the 2 AFPFL groups grew worse, the government became shakier and the threat of a communist takeover increased. Finally, late in 1958, U Nu asked the head of the armed forces, General Ne Win, to head a new government which would act to eliminate the possibility of a communist seizure of power.

When General Ne Win assumed authority, many people predicted that democracy in Burma was doomed. Although he was supposed to hold new elections within a short period, it was feared that he would not voluntarily give up the power which had been handed over to him.

Events proved otherwise. Ne Win ruled Burma for a little more than a year during which time he cracked down hard on the few remaining rebel groups still at large in Burma. Other reforms were accomplished including the controlling of inflation and the reduction of Burma's high crime rate. When he felt that conditions had improved sufficiently, Ne Win kept his promise to hold new elections.

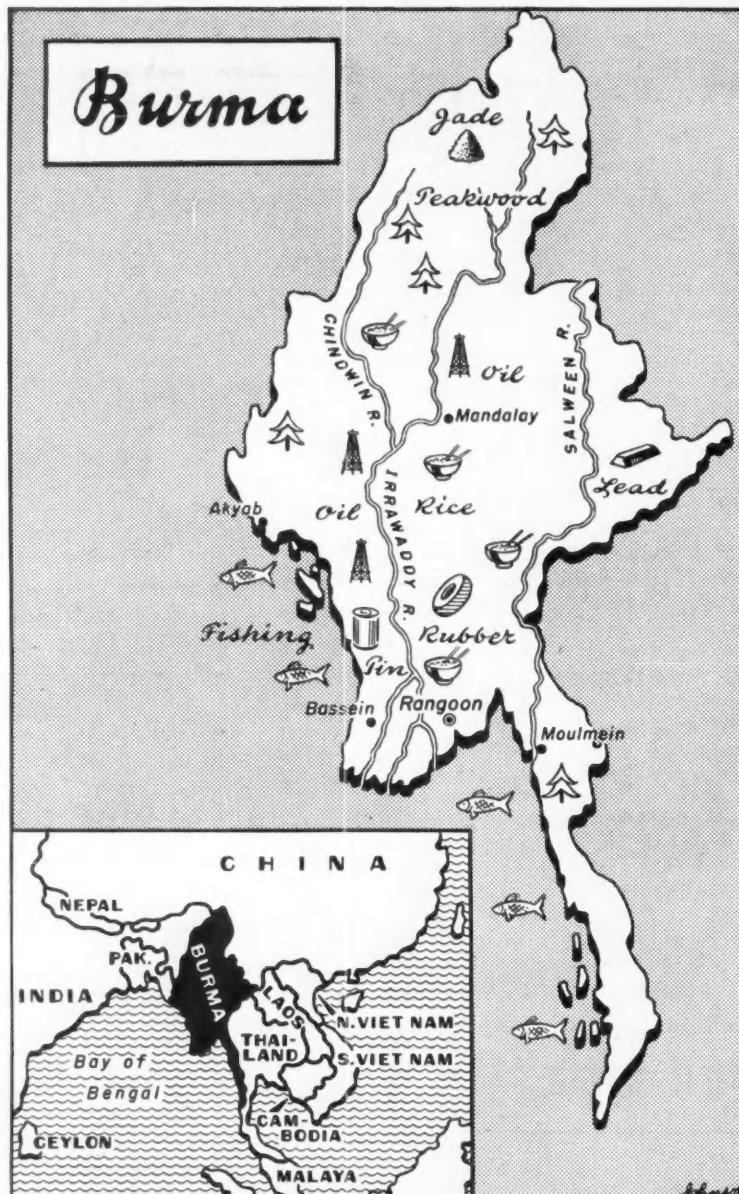
During the balloting which took place last month, U Nu and his followers within the AFPFL won a smashing victory over their opponents. Since there was little difference in the platforms of the 2 parties, U Nu's victory is attributed mainly to his popularity. Communist hopes for political gain appear stymied, because U Nu now has enough supporters in the legislature so that he will not have to combine with or depend upon other groups in order to stay in power.

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS.** Burma, during 12 years of independence, has done her best to stay out of the cold war. There are a number of reasons for this.

First, the country has a 1,000-mile border with Red China. It is to Burma's self-interest not to adopt policies which would be sure to anger that nation.

Even if she did not have to worry about her communist neighbor, the chances are that Burma would remain neutral. U Nu and other Burmese leaders feel, like Prime Minister Nehru of India, that armed blocs are a threat to world peace. In trips which he has made to Red China, Russia, and the United States, U Nu has constantly stressed the necessity for peaceful co-existence.

At various times, Burma has had arguments with both the United States and the communists. Difficulties with our country arose in the early 1950's when we were accused of supporting some of Chiang Kai-shek's soldiers who fled to Burma following their defeat by the communists in China's civil war. These troops, originally numbering about 10,000, re-



WITH AN AREA of 262,000 square miles, Burma is about the size of Texas. Population of the Southeast Asian country is 20,255,000. Rangoon is the capital.

well-trained army of 70,000 men has the situation under control.

Along with bringing about political and military stability, the government has been concentrating on improving economic conditions. Poverty in that nation is probably more severe than in any other Southeast Asian country except Laos. The average per capita income is only \$56 a year as compared with \$2,570 a year in the United States.

Burma has often been referred to as the "Rice Bowl" of Asia. She is the world's largest producer of this food. Although the growing of rice is still encouraged, attempts are being made to increase the importance of other crops, such as cotton. Then, Burma will not have to depend so heavily on a single agricultural prod-

a further effort to reduce Burma's reliance on the growing of rice. Some of her industries are run by the government. Many others are joint enterprises in which private business and the government share in both management and profits. Thus, while the country's political system is democratic; its economic system is socialist to a large extent.

**SPLIT IN RULING PARTY.** Until 1958, the AFPFL, backed by the majority of the Burmese voters, was the only major party in the country. It easily won elections in 1952 and 1956. During the early part of 1958, a major split occurred between leading members of the party.

U Nu led one bloc, while his Deputy Prime Minister headed the opposing group. The dispute between the 2



U NU, Burma's political leader

fused to turn themselves over to Burmese authorities. About 2,000 of them are still hiding out in northern jungle areas.

Burma, convinced that we were aiding this foreign force lodged on her territory, stopped accepting U. S. economic aid in 1953. This situation continued until last year when that country requested funds for the building of a major highway. Burma now appears to be satisfied that we have no connection with the holdouts from Chiang's former army.

In all, Burma has received about \$50,000,000 in U. S. loans and grants since 1948. This is much more than she has received from Russia and Red China combined.

The border between Burma and Red China was in dispute during all the last decade. In 1956, communist troops entered a number of areas claimed by Burma. This action naturally caused great concern among people in that nation.

Ne Win, in one of his last acts as head of the government, journeyed to Peking early this year to discuss the matter with Red leaders. Most points of conflict were cleared up, with Burma losing only a few square miles of territory.

Burma's attitude toward Red China was further jolted by communist ac-

tions in Tibet and along the Indian border. Although the government is still sticking to its policy of complete neutrality, public opinion in Burma, as reflected by newspaper comment, appears to be quite anti-communist at this time. It is believed that one reason Red China showed such cooperation in settling the border difficulties with Burma this year was her desire to regain a measure of popularity in that country and other parts of Asia.

Mr. Khrushchev's recent trip to Burma appears to be mainly for the same reason. While he was there, the Russian Premier made glowing promises of communist aid to the Asian land.

The future of Burma and other democratic nations in Asia is of great importance. If these countries can raise living standards while retaining political freedom, they will show the rest of the world that democracy is the best form of government—not only for economically advanced nations—but for poor, underdeveloped lands as well. —By TIM COSS



BURMESE WOMEN in native dress. Many of them wear western clothes.

DEANE DICKSON-EWING GALLOWAY

## KNOW THAT WORD!

*In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase which has the same general meaning. Correct answers are on page 5, column 4.*

1. The activities of a few leaders brought the whole organization into *disrepute* (*dis-rē-püt'*). (a) disillusion (b) discredit (c) discontinuation (d) discussion.

2. On the basis of new evidence the attorney general asked that the *indictment* (*in-dít'mēnt*) be dismissed. (a) formal accusation (b) prisoner (c) judge's sentence (d) prosecution witness.

3. All citizens were *enjoined* (*ēn-joynd'*) to respect the court's decision. (a) requested (b) encouraged (c)

commanded (d) extremely unwilling.

4. The new ruling did not *impede* (*im-pēd'*) the work of the commission. (a) affect (b) contribute to (c) refer to (d) obstruct.

5. The idea of a federal union was *anathema* (*ā-nāth'ē-mā*) to some early Americans. (a) a new concept (b) agreeable (c) intensely objectionable (d) traced by historians.

6. The speaker's *platitudes* (*plat'üdz*) bored the audience. (a) poor jokes (b) commonplace statements (c) exaggerated gestures (d) constant repetitions.

7. *Dire* (*dir*) results were predicted if the opposition party won the election. (a) terrible (b) favorable (c) immediate (d) few.

## Monthly Test

**NOTE TO TEACHERS:** This test covers the issues of the AMERICAN OBSERVER dated February 8, 15, 22, and 29.

**Scoring:** If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

**DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS:** In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. In the 13 years of its existence, the World Court has decided (a) only 10 cases; (b) hundreds of critical international disputes; (c) not a single case; (d) many important cases, all directly involving the United States.

2. Since gaining independence in 1949, the Republic of Indonesia has succeeded in (a) wiping out poverty throughout the nation; (b) keeping cordial relations with all countries; (c) greatly reducing illiteracy among her people; (d) establishing an effective, strong central government.

3. Presidential primary elections of one kind or another will be held this year in (a) all 50 states; (b) about one-third of the states; (c) New Hampshire, Oregon, and Wisconsin, only; (d) all states but Hawaii and Alaska.

4. President Charles de Gaulle, of France, now has (a) almost no power; (b) few, but extremely important powers; (c) full powers both to rule and make laws for France during a 12-month period; (d) complete power to enforce laws, but no power to make them.

5. Recent controversy over United States defenses has mainly involved our (a) naval-building program; (b) early-warning radar systems; (c) nuclear fallout shelters; (d) long-range missile program.

6. By far the most used means of travel between cities in the United States is the (a) private automobile; (b) bus; (c) railroad; (d) airplane.

7. One of the smallest but politically one of the most stable countries of Latin America is (a) Mexico; (b) Uruguay; (c) Argentina; (d) Cuba.

8. The problem of reaching international agreement to end all nuclear testing was recently complicated when (a) France exploded a nuclear device; (b) Red China announced it would test an H-bomb within 6 months; (c) the United States resumed underground nuclear testing; (d) the Geneva Conference on testing ended without reaching agreement.

9. The governments of both the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China have been criticized for being (a) increasingly sympathetic toward communism; (b) neutrals in their foreign policies; (c) anti-American in many respects; (d) dictatorial in combating opposition within their own countries.

10. Certain leaders of both parties are urging the repeal of the Connally Amendment, which provides that the United States (a) decides which cases involving this country may go to the World Court; (b) should take no cases to the World Court; (c) must have at least 3 judges on the World Court; (d) should take all disputes with other countries to the World Court.

11. President Sukarno of Indonesia describes his government as being (a) "national socialism"; (b) "guided democracy"; (c) "liberal republicanism"; (d) "moderate communism."

12. During recent years in the United States, the poorest record for passenger safety has been made by (a) airlines; (b) railroads; (c) private automobiles; (d) bus lines.

13. French army officers who revolted against De Gaulle demanded that Moslems rebelling in Algeria should be (a) liberated and pardoned; (b) moved into Tunisia and Morocco; (c) subdued by force; (d) accorded equal rights with European settlers in Algeria.

(Concluded on page 8)



PLANTING CROPS in Burma is usually done by hand. Mechanized planters are rare in the Asian country.

## Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

14. Presidential primary elections serve chiefly to indicate (a) the relative strength of the 2 parties; (b) voter opinion on vital issues; (c) voter opinion of the candidates already chosen by national conventions; (d) voter preference, prior to the conventions, for candidates within each party.

15. South Korea will probably never have large-scale industrial development, because she lacks (a) foreign trade; (b) sufficient raw materials; (c) a labor supply; (d) technical knowledge.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the statement.

16. Of Indonesia's 87,000,000 people, well over half live on the island of \_\_\_\_\_.

17. In January 1960, the African nation of \_\_\_\_\_ gained its independence from France.

18. At present it is much more uncertain as to who will be the Presidential candidate of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party than of the other major party.

19. The capital of Indonesia is \_\_\_\_\_.

20. Congress is considering a Constitutional amendment to prohibit any \_\_\_\_\_-tax requirement for voting in national elections.

21. Recent elections in Kerala, a state in \_\_\_\_\_, put a non-communist government in power.

22. Ninety per cent of Algeria's people are followers of the \_\_\_\_\_ religion.

23. The British crown colony of \_\_\_\_\_, in the Far East, is crowded with refugees.

**Identify the following persons.** Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

24. Syngman Rhee  
25. Juscelino Kubitschek  
26. Thomas Gates  
27. Walter Lippmann  
28. Stuart Symington

A. U. S. Senator and critic of U. S. Defense Policy

B. Influential American columnist

C. U. S. Secretary of Defense

D. President of Republic of Korea

E. President of Brazil

F. U. S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter preceding the word or phrase that makes the best definition of the word in italics.

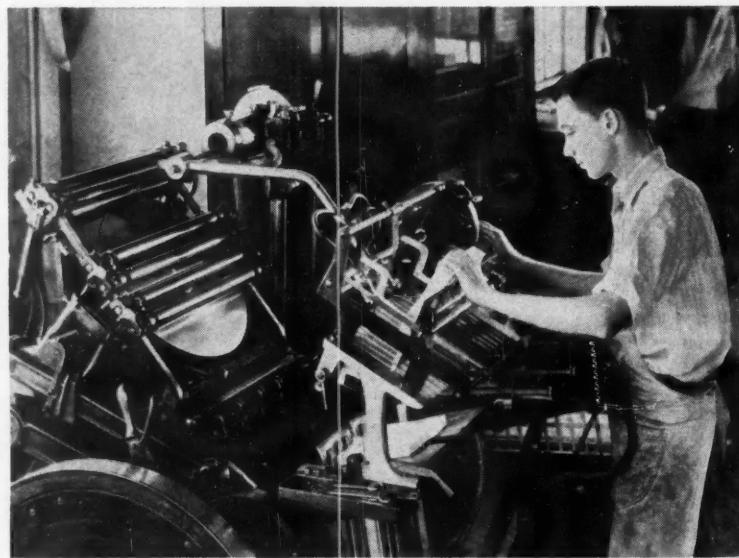
29. In 1801, the treaty was *abrogated* by Napoleon. (a) canceled; (b) revised; (c) ignored; (d) proposed.

30. The *schism* among church leaders continued for 10 years. (a) agreement; (b) discussion; (c) split; (d) correspondence.

31. Congress gave *belated* attention to the President's request. (a) immediate; (b) delayed; (c) hasty; (d) unexpected.

32. The reporter's *tenacity* was his greatest asset. (a) honesty; (b) loyalty; (c) imagination; (d) persistence.

33. The witness replied with *candor* to all questions. (a) hesitation; (b) frankness; (c) difficulty; (d) reluctance.



A. DEVANEY, INC.  
APPRENTICE for the printing trade learning how to use a small press

## Careers for Tomorrow

### More Printers Are Needed

THERE are many different jobs in the printing industry. If you decide on this field, your duties will depend upon the specific branch of work you choose.

In the composing room, there are *linotype* or *monotype* operators who set copy into metal type on machines with a keyboard that resembles a typewriter. When the type is set, a *hand compositor* assembles the metal in a galley, or possibly in page form, and puts in the material that must be set by hand. He then pulls a proof of the type and sends it to the *proofreader* who checks over the material for errors.

The *pressman* then takes the plates prepared in the composing room and places it on the printing press. He may have to put pieces of paper of exactly the right thickness under the type or photographic plates to level them so the printed impression will come out clear and uniform. He must also make proper adjustments for margins, and check on the flow of ink into the press. When the presses start to roll, he supervises the job until it is finished.

In many cases, *pressmen* have *assistants* to help them care for their complicated machines. Sometimes the helpers feed the paper into presses that are not equipped with automatic devices for this purpose.

There are many other branches of work in the printing field. Because of the rapid developments that are taking place in the industry all the time, some types of jobs may be gradually eliminated, and new ones created. Hence, it would be wise for you to keep in touch with the latest developments in this trade before deciding on a definite branch of work.

**Qualifications.** Three requirements for success in this work are (1) mechanical aptitude, for a printer works with hand tools and machines; (2) a natural feeling for English, since a printer deals with words; and (3) artistic sense, because a printer has considerable responsibility for seeing that type is attractively spaced on a printed page.

**Preparation.** While in high school, take as many courses as possible in English. Also take courses in printing if your school is among those offering them.

The formal apprenticeship may take 4 to 6 years to complete, depending upon the branch of printing you choose. As a rule, you will take classroom courses in various phases of printing while learning the trade as a working apprentice in a regular print shop.

**Job outlook.** The U. S. Department of Labor says job opportunities are plentiful, and are expected to be so for many years to come. Printers are employed by commercial printing establishments, publishing houses, and by the state and federal government.

**Earnings.** Your pay will depend upon your ability, experience, and the locality in which you work. On the average, an apprentice earns about \$60 a week. A journeyman usually earns between \$100 and \$150 a week. Supervisory employees may receive \$200 or more a week.

**Facts to weigh.** The pay is fairly good and the field offers good opportunities for advancement. In addition, jobs can be found in almost any part of the country.

One disadvantage is that printers must often work under pressure to meet a deadline. Another is that a specific skill, for which you have spent years of training, may no longer be needed because of technical changes in the industry.

**More information.** Get in touch with newspaper and commercial printing shops in your locality. The local office of your State Employment Service can also help you find printing jobs. The Printing Industry of America, 5728 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., also has career information available. Write for a price list of its publications, and address inquiries to Mr. Samuel Burt.

—By ANTON BERLE

The porpoise is one of the smartest and most entertaining of all sea creatures. The clever animal is a favorite at aquariums, where it likes to catch food in the air and do other tricks. Scientists say that if a brain's size were any indication of intelligence, the porpoise would be smarter than man. The average weight of a human brain is a little under 3 pounds. A porpoise's brain weighs over 3 pounds. (Punster: What's the porpoise of all this?)

## Readers Say—

I believe that the tour President Eisenhower expects to make to Russia next summer is a good idea. It will help to bring about better U. S.-Soviet understanding.

RICHARD JOHNSON,  
Vermillion, South Dakota

I realize that it is difficult to change the status of the Presidential office. But, unless some workable solution of lightening the Chief Executive's tasks is found in the near future, it will be difficult to fill the Presidential office with qualified men.

GUY GIBSON,  
Annapolis, Maryland

We cannot afford to reduce aid to foreign countries. If we discontinue assistance, lands in need will turn elsewhere for help—to Russia.

ARDEN ADAMSON,  
Vermillion, South Dakota

Admitting communist China to the UN would be a tragic error. A nation that has instigated 3 wars—in Indochina, Korea, and Tibet—has no place in an organization devoted to peace.

Lack of UN membership has not stifled negotiations with the Chinese communists. We have, for instance, negotiated with their representatives in Korea, Poland, and Switzerland. Red China in the UN would seek only to spread propaganda.

WILLIAM LUCIANOVIC,  
THOMAS BIRD, and  
CAROL DU REI,  
Newark, New Jersey



The Vice President should have more jobs to do, and we should not turn over certain White House tasks to a new First Secretary. The Vice President should take over some of the executive tasks, and another person should preside over the Senate.

CAROLYN KNOWLES, and  
NANCY DAVIS,  
Bangor, Maine

West Germany has made a remarkable recovery since World War II. However, I think that she should educate her younger citizens in the history and errors of Nazism—so as not to forget her past. With education, the youths will be less easily swayed by political promises of prestige and superiority—and may channel their energies in pursuit of democracy.

JUDY FRANCK,  
Richmond, Virginia

The Vice President should be given more responsible duties, because his abilities are not now fully utilized. In our opinion, a First Secretary is not needed to assist the Chief Executive. The duties of such a post could be taken over by the Vice President.

KAREN FEELEY, SHEILA RICHARDS,  
NANCY CLARK, DOROTHY MELVIN,  
and RUTH DONNELLY,  
Bangor, Maine

